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GRIGORYEV ARTICLE DENIES USSR BLAME FOR SALT DELAY

LD271437Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Yevgeniy Grigoryev commentary: "After the Talks"]

[Text] Talks have taken place in Geneva between A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and C. Vance, U.S. secretary of state. Chief attention at the talks was devoted to an examination of questions concerning the limitation of strategic offensive arms in the context of completing preparations for a new agreement in the very near future. This was the sixth Soviet-U.S. meeting of this kind this year, and this in itself indicates the intensity of the work being conducted.

Progress was achieved at Geneva this time. Accord or rapprochement of the sides' positions has been found on most of the main issues over which there had been a divergence of opinion. Both sides expressed a determination to carry through to completion coordination of the remaining issues. It is believed that for this it will now suffice to make use of normal diplomatic channels between Moscow and Washington.

The statement which C. Vance made on returning to Washington confirms once again the positive result of the Geneva talks and the existence of real opportunities to carry through to its conclusion the great and crucial work of SALT-2. "We are aware," he observed, "of the great significance for peace of reaching a SALT agreement without delay."

In this context certain newspaper commentaries across the ocean sound especially strange. The New York TIMES, for instance, asserts that in Geneva the Soviet Union displayed "a reluctance to complete the SALT talks." The Washington POST is disseminating a story about some Soviet intention "to block a SALT agreement" out of some sort of tactical considerations. Such information, or to be more accurate, disinformation is dictated either by ignorance about the course of the talks or else by a deliberate desire to distort the essence of the Soviet position, although the fact that the SALT-2 talks have not been completed ought not at all to be blamed on the Soviet stand.

It is also well known that the Soviet Union was prepared for such an agreement several years ago--immediately after the Vladivostok accord. Taking a consistently constructive stand, our country has striven and is striving to bring closer the day when a new agreement of tremendous importance for the cause of peace will be signed. The USSR's businesslike and realistic approach undoubtedly had an effect on the results of the Geneva talks.

The completion of the preparation of a new Soviet-U.S. agreement on strategic offensive arms limitation remains on the agenda. The relevant work will be continued. It is to be hoped that this work will be marked with success, given, of course, strict observance of the principle of undiminished security of the sides and mutual consideration of each other's interests and the interests of world peace. All peoples are waiting for a SALT-2 agreement, confident that it will be a very important contribution to the cause of detente and of curbing the arms race.

TASS REPORTS U.S.-USSR SALT DELEGATIONS MEETING IN GENEVA

LD271434Y Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, December 27, TASS--The heads of the delegations of the USSR and the USA held here a meeting today at the Soviet-American negotiations on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments.

NEKRASOV ON IMPORTANCE OF SALT-II IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT

LD271529Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 22 Dec 78 p 2 LD

[Text] We publish below a Soviet view of SALT. This article is written by Vadim Nakrasov, an important journalist in the USSR, and is distributed by NOVOSTI. It shows the spirit in which the Soviet Union is tackling the final stage of the negotiations and the store which it sets by an agreement:

A new element has appeared recently in the long debate about the signing of a new American-Soviet strategic arms limitation agreement: certain people allege that, if it is signed, it will weaken the West European countries and will be likely to make the Soviet Union succumb to the temptation to attack them. These arguments are so remote from reality that people are logically wondering whether they are not suggested by those circles in the United States which are sparing no effort to induce the American administration not to conclude this agreement.

Insofar as they are sincere, the present fears obviously originate from the notion of the "balance of fear" which is regarded as the primary obstacle to the outbreak of war. It is this idea which is the basis of all the arguments in favor of continuing the arms race.

It should not be forgotten that the very idea of the "balance of fear" emerged in America, not in Europe. Why? Probably because the Americans have long believed that their country stands apart from the old world. Despite the present level of development of military equipment, for them the Atlantic still represents a barrier capable of protecting U.S. territory from immediate attack. It is precisely this mistake which generates the idea that a limited European war which does not affect American soil is acceptable. On the other hand, there is some similarity between the ways in which Europeans and the Soviet Union view this problem. The experience of the previous generation in Europe shows how a great military conflagration can spread to many countries, whatever region of Europe in which it breaks out. Let us note that Europeans remember clearly that World War I broke out in a context to some extent resembling the present context. Then, as today, the opposing sides were stockpiling weapons in the hope of creating a "balance of fear." But eventually they rushed into the abyss together.

The idea of the "balance of fear" is foreign by its very nature to the real foundations of European security. Nor can it be applied to the world situation. Increasing numbers of people believe that it is the concern for solving universal, ecological, energy and other problems and not homicidal instincts which will ultimately prove capable of ending the military confrontation in the world and, consequently, the nightmare of nuclear self-destruction which still obsesses mankind.

What will be Europe's future if the strategic arms limitation agreement is not signed? There will certainly be an uncontrolled increase in stocks of "tactical nuclear weapons" which will considerably aggravate the risk of the accidental outbreak of a nuclear holocaust. All European countries--West, central or East European--will see a several-fold increase in their military expenditure while the security problem will remain the same or even deteriorate in view of the fears provoked by the increased rivalry.

The participants in the Warsaw Pack Political Consultative Committee session held in Moscow in November proposed that negotiations on nuclear weapons be organized in Europe. Everything suggests that no better forum could be found for discussing the concerns which have emerged in certain circles with regard to the American-Soviet agreement.

ZIMYANIN RECEIVES BLOC RADIO, TV CHIEFS IN MOSCOW

LD211711Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] A routine working meeting of television and radio organization chiefs from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia took place in Moscow on 18-19 December. The participants exchanged experience of implementing the decisions of fraternal party congresses and their Central Committees' guidelines on further enhancing and improving information and propaganda work by television and radio. The socialist countries' television and radio organization chiefs were received by M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. A discussion, in which E.M. Tyazhelnikov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department took part, was held in a warm, comradely atmosphere.

PRAVDA REPORTS BERLIN BLOC CONFERENCE ON PARTY STUDIES

LD211657Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] A conference of representatives of the socialist countries' communist and workers parties has been held in Berlin on questions of party studies. Representatives of the BCP, the Vietnam Communist Party, the MSZMP, the SED, the Communist Party of Cuba, the MPRP, the RCP, the CPSU and the CPCZ participated in the conference. The conference participants exchanged experience in organizing the Marxist-Leninist studies of communists, increasing the efficiency of ideological-educational work and strengthening its link with life and with the tasks of socialist and communist building. The great significance of the points and conclusions in the declaration adopted at the Political Consultative Committee's Moscow conference for propaganda work was emphasized. The delegation leaders were received by K. Hager, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee.

CEMA FERROUS METALLURGY COMMISSION MEETS IN LIPETSK

LD211633Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] A session of the CEMA Permanent Commission on Ferrous Metallurgy has been held in Lipetsk. Information was examined concerning progress in coordinating draft general agreements on major measures in the ferrous metallurgy sphere incorporated in the long-term targeted cooperation program. These are the building of a large metallurgical plant to meet increasing steel needs, and new mining and enriching enterprises to increase supplies of ferriferous raw material from the Soviet Union to CEMA member countries. A work plan for 1979-1980 was approved, and other questions concerning cooperation were examined.

BRIEFS

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES' MEETING--Prague, 15 Dec, TASS--An international meeting of representatives of societies of friendship with the USSR from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, Poland and Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Links with Foreign Countries has ended its work here. An all-round exchange of work experiences of these public organizations at industrial enterprises was held. The participants also outlined plans for cooperation and for the holding of joint measures next year. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2043 GMT 15 Dec 78 LD]

UNITED STATES

CARTER FORGETS PROMISE TO REDUCE MILITARY EXPENDITURE

LD272042Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2750 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Kachanov]

[Text] The New York TIMES today reports that the White House has decided to increase the Pentagon's budget for the next financial year and bring the overall U.S. military expenditure up to the record sum of nearly $136 billion. It is known that the military expenditure for the current financial year has amounted to some $130 billion.

It should be recalled that in the course of his election campaign, President Carter promised Americans to reduce military expenditure by $5 billion to $7 billion. But the latest decision by the White House shows that this promise has been forgotten.

U.S. DELEGATION VISITS TAIWAN TO 'REASSURE' COUNTRY

LD271830Y Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

["W. Christopher's mission"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, December 27, TASS--A high ranking American delegation led by Deputy Secretary of State W. Christopher has left for a visit to Taiwan. The delegation also includes Commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific Admiral M. Weisne and other representatives of the Pentagon. The White House said that the aim of the visit is to reassure Taipei that trade, cultural and "other ties" between the USA and Taiwan will be preserved after the normalization of relations between Washington and Peking.

As the UPI agency points out, one of the most important issues to be discussed by W. Christopher in Taipei will be the question of precisely what weapons the USA will supply to Taiwan in keeping with the commitment of the American administration.

Tokyo, December 27, TASS--Speaking in a irterview with the newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN, former Japanese Foreign Minister K. Miyazawa said quoting the American side that is the course of the talks between Washington and Peking on the establishment of diplomatic relations, Chairman of the Communist Party of China CC Hua Kuo-feng approved of the U.S. stand in the question of fresh American arms supplies to Taiwan.

ATTEMPTS TO INCITE IRAN AGAINST OPEC CAUSE 'INDIGNATION'

LD261910Y Moscow in Arabic and the Arab World 1700 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Text] U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Mr Blumenthal linked the question of oil prices with the currenct events in Iran. He said that Iran would be able, after the resumption of oil production, to make ineffective the OPEC decision to raise prices by 14.5 percent. This statement casts additional light on the motivation of the crude American interference in Iran's affairs. A large group of American CIA and State Department experts arrived in Iran to resolve the crisis in Iran in a manner advantegous to the United States. Clearly the aim is to suppress the democratic movement in this country and to strengthen American control there. Washington wants, as it is evident in Blumenthal's statement, to incite Iran against the Arab and other OPEC member-states, thereby creating a division in this organization. According to the plans of the American politicans, backing Iran should serve as an alternative to Saudi Arabia's refusal to play the role of Washington's pliant instrument in OPEC.

These U.S. intentions cannot but arouse deep indignation in all OPEC states which are fully resolved to firmly resist this time the U.S. policy of interference and intimidation.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF NUCLEAR AMBITIONS OF PRC 'SHORTSIGHTED'

LD271536Y Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

["Is It Worth Encouraging"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--TASS political commentator Igor Orlov writes: Official Washington, as it has just been reported by a representative of the Department of State, has decided not to object to France's plans to sell China nuclear reactors which include American components. The Franco-Chinese agreement on the sale of power nuclear units to Peking, according to reports, was signed this month in the Chinese capital. It is reported that these deliveries will be carried out by the French firm "Framaton" which manufactures reactors under the licence of the American "Westinghouse" company. The signal, sanctioning the deal, that came from Washington is seemingly bound to speed it up. The question, however, arises--in whose interests is all this being done? Assurances are being given that the reactors to be supplied are planned to be used only for peaceful purposes, but these assurances do not produce an answer to a whole number of logical questions. Can anybody, for instance, give firm guarantees that the used fuel rods of reactors to be supplied to China will not be used in the future for military purposes? The more so, as was reported in the foreign press, in China there is already a unit to extract plutonium from the used nuclear fuel that power reactors rely on, the plutonium which is used for the production of nuclear weapons.

Second, and this is an important circumstance, China being a nuclear power, could certainly provide itself with power nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes. Does it not mean that with the help of nuclear reactors, purchased in Western countries, China seeks to build up its over-all nuclear potential.

Is it worth encouraging such deals in the light of well-known great-power hegemonic desires of Peking, which has undisguised territorial claims to all its neighbours, and towards some of them it is already trying to pursue a policy of diktat and pressure. It should not be forgotten that through its defence minister, Peking has recently said once again: "War is a quite normal phenomenon, and therefore it is inevitable." In Peking they also repeatedly reaffirmed that a would-be war is thought there to be exactly a nuclear war. Does not the encouragement of nuclear ambitions of the Peking militarists seem shortsighted, at least in the light of all these facts?

RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT FROM PRC REACHES EASTERN U.S.

LD231040Y Moscow TASS in English 0814 GMT 23 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 23, TASS--The radioactive cloud, which resulted from a nuclear explosion conducted in the PRC has reached the territory of the United States and is now moving towards its eastern coast. This was announced on Friday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. According to the agency, a rise in the level of ground radiation is expected. As was already reported, China conducted nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere on December 14.

PRAVDA ASSESSES RESULTS OF CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

LD2300447 Moscow TASS in English 0025 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow, December 28, TASS--Follows the full text of Aleksey Petrov's article headlined "Same Goals, and Contradictory Course" with the subtitle "On the Communique of the Third Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China." The article is published in today's PRAVDA.

As was already reported, the third plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) ended in Peking on December 22, this year. The plenary meeting was held in an atmosphere of a sharp aggravation of the struggle for power in the Peking top echelon. The published reports on the results of the CPC Central Committee's plenary meeting shed additional light on some undercurrents in the CPC leadership which is experiencing a deep crisis into which it was plunged by Maoism.

The present round of the struggle began way back in February-March this year at the second plenary meeting of the Central Committee. Its decisions have not been made public up to now. Differences between three leading figures--Hua Kuo-feng, Yeh Chien-ying, and Teng Hsiao-ping--revealed themselves at a conference on political work in the army, which was held in May this year, as well as in the subsequent wide-scale purges. Then that factional antagonism assumed a specific Chinese form: These began a campaign of tatzupao (wall posters), to the accompaniment of which incessant meetings and working conferences of the CPC Central Committee were held until a temporary compromise was recorded at the Central Committee's plenary meeting.

An extensive number of questions were brought up at the plenary meeting. They concerned a purge in various sections of the party-and-state leadership, new appointments, economic problems, and the attitude towards the "ideological legacy" of Mao Tse-tung.

The plenary meeting announced the completion of a "large-scale mass movement for the exposure and criticism of Lin Piao and the 'four'" from the beginning of 1979 the centre of gravity of the work is being transferred, as the communique says, to the implementation of a "socialist modernization."

It was admitted at the plenary meeting that "in the national economy there still exist many problems, "phenomena of serious disproportions," "a chaotic state in the fields of production, construction, exchange and distribution" and that the country's economy has been marking time for more than ten years or "suffered regress." For the first time Chinese official documents say that a multitude of problems have accumulated in the life of the working people of town and countryside, problems which still "await their appropriate resolution."

In the face of the mounting discontent among workers and peasants, the mass unemployment including that among the youth who are forcibly moved from towns to out-of-the way areas, the Chinese leadership is promising "to take into consideration their material needs and interests" and "guarantee democratic rights." Specially singled out is the promise to take care of peasant households. It is known that at present--according to admissions of the Chinese press" twenty percent of peasant households cannot maintain themselves.

A lot of high-sounding demagogic phrases and promises have been also included in the plenary meeting's communique concerning the introduction of inner-party democracy legality, combatting bureaucratism, etc.

There is no doubt that broad masses of the working people of China who are infinitely tired of the adversities and upheavals in the country's economic and socio-political life during the "big leap" years and the "Cultural Revolution" which presently followed it, are deeply interested in renovating the entire life of the country. They are interested first of all in a successful development of the economy, education, and a real rise in the living standard. Over the last two decades of Mao Tse-tung's life, the wages of the Chinese working people had been frozen. The voluntaristic arbitrariness in economic management and costly adventuristic actions in the world arena led to a decline in the material well-being of the masses.

The communique says that the outlined "four modernization" (of industry, agriculture, defence, science and technology) will create possibilities for improving the people's well-being, though it is added, at the same time, that conditions for the early solution of this task are lacking.

However, he who carefully reads the documents of the plenum and has a realistic idea of the present direction of the Chinese leadership's political course, will question the existence of prerequisites for even slow changes for the better.

Actually remaining the "centre of gravity" of the "modernization acceleration" program proclaimed by the Chinese leadership is the build-up of China's military-economic potential, turning it into a militarist superpower. This line is unbreakably linked with the Peking leadership's foreign-policy course and flows from its guidlines for "preparing for war."

Having stated once again the "existence of a serious danger of war," the plenum of the CPC CC underlined the need for "strengthening the defence capacity" of China. The Chinese leadership adopted a decision at the plenum, which evaluates the foreign-policy guidelines and actions of China's ruling group--directed, as is known, towards rapprochement and linking up with the aggressive quarters of leading imperialist powers and confrontation with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community--as "correct and effective." The cover-up for this policy is Peking's standard phraseology about "the expansion of the international united front of struggle against hegemonism," about struggle against "Soviet revisionism."

The approach in the plenum documents to ideological and political questions that are agitating Chinese society, first of all, assessments of Mao Tse-tung's activities and "ideas," of the role and consequences of the "Cultural Revolution," reveals the specific features of these new guideline decisions: their contradictoriness, a striving to perpetuate the crucial strategic guidelines of Maoism, to prop up the course of Mao and his heirs which looks bankrupt in the eyes of the popular masses. "The great merits" of Mao Tse-tung, the communique maintains, "will never fade."

By such statements the Peking leaders are trying to evade a truthful assessment of the consequences of Mao's political and ideological activities, so destructive for the country in the last two decades of his life. Because of the logics of unabating faction brawling within the present leading group, in which the very assessments of Mao Tse-tung's heritage also become a subject of clashes, the Peking leaders were forced to tell, though with qualifications, veiled half-truths about Mao.

The paradoxic thing about the plenum's materials consists also in that the present Chinese leadership, on the one hand, confirms the intent to pursue the former Maoist, essentially anti-socialist course, whose bankruptcy is apparent, while on the other, in order to weaken the discontent of the masses over Mao's policy, it is rehabilitating and even giving posts in leading bodies to surviving prominent CPC members who in the fifties and sixties fell victim to repressions for coming out against the adventuristic domestic and antisoviet foreign direction of Mao Tse tung's policy of that time.

The attempts at any price "to save the face" of Maoism can be clearly seen also in the theses in the plenum's communique which justify the essentially anti-socialist and anti-party "Cultural Revolution," which cost the working people of China and the country's economy so dearly--as recognized today even by the Peking leaders themselves--as allegedly necessary for "struggle against revisionism and preventing its appearance." The communique suggests "not to be too hasty about "summing up" its "shortcomings and mistakes"."

One can easily see that the Peking leaders are seriously concerned by the problem of smoothing out--both in practice and in the texts of documents--acute difference inside the leadership. Testimony to this are not only the communique's repeated admonitions regarding the need to "go on developing the political atmosphere of stability and cohesion" and calls for "struggling resolutely against bourgeois group activities and anarchy."

An obvious admission of the existence of contradictions within the Peking leadership, first of all among the group of figures headed by Teng Hsiao-ping, many of whom had suffered from the "Cultural Revolution" and still earlier campaigns in Mao Tse-tung's struggle against "anti-party lines" and the group of those, propelled forth by the "Cultural Revolution," to which Hua Kuo-feng also belongs, is seen in a number of plenum decisions which confirm the "shift of power" that has taken place in favour of Teng and his supporters. The plenum officially endorsed a new, positive assessment of the well-known events of 1976, in Peking's Square of Heavenly Peace, used at the time as a pretext for removing Teng Hsiao-ping from the party and state leadership of China, and annulled all the "erroneous documents" of those years, according to which, by the way, Hua Kuo-feng was appointed to the posts of premier of PRC's State Council and Mao's first deputy.

Lastly, unquestionable testimony of this altered balance of forces is the cooptation to the Central Committee and the election to the CC Politbureau of new persons who may be regarded as associates of Teng Hsiao-ping. However also remaining in the leadership are all those against whom sharp criticism was levelled in the wall posters. All this indicates that new upheavals may be expected at the top of Peking's leadership, just as was the case up till now.

The setting up at the Central Committee's plenary meeting of the "central commission for checking discipline" is heralding, to all appearances, further wide-scale purges in the party, among cadre workers of the party, state and military apparatus.

The results of the plenary meeting show that, remaining on Maoist positions, and following the hegemonistic, antisocialist course in the field of foreign policy, the present Peking leadership is trying to combine pragmatism with voluntarism, the country's modernisation with militarisation and attachment of China to the arms race, promises of a rise in the people's living standard in the future with keeping it at the lowest level at present with calls to prepare for a war, the talk of democracy with a reinforcement of the repressive apparatus and continuation of purges, the combining of the pseudosocialist phraseology with diehard anti-Sovietism and anticommunism, slogans on strengthening the country's independence with a prospect to become directly dependent on imperialism, statements on "relying on one's own" with rosy hopes for good deeds of the West, for its credits, its scientific and technical aid, etc.

The preservation of the hegemonistic-expansionist aims, hostility to the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, the adherence to the bankrupt dogmas of Maoism, the course towards militarisation and allying with imperialism basically contradict the interests of the Chinese people. This is convincingly indicated by the bitter historical lessons of the development of China itself. But the people of the PRC know a different experience, too. Even the authors of the communique of the third plenary meeting of the CPC Central Committee could not but admit that in the first years after the establishment of the People's Republic of China "the party had done a great amount of work in the cause of implementation of the socialist modernisation and achieved great successes." And no one can strike out those years from the history of struggle for the cause of socialism in China.

Soviet people, educated by the communist party in the spirit of internationalism, regard with understanding the Chinese people's aspiration to overcome centuries-long backwardness and to turn their motherland into a prosperous state.

The way to that is only one--socialism. As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev emphasized as far back as 1969. "We are deeply convinced that a genuine national revival of China can be achieved and its socialist development insured not on the ways of struggle against the USSR and other socialist countries, against the entire communist movement, but on the ways of alliance and fraternal cooperation with them."

PRC-U.S. ALLIANCE WOULD STRENGTHEN PRC POSITION IN ASIA

LD271854Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Boris Sergeyev commentary]

[Text] Some of the latest developments bring back to mind the interview that the Chinese vice premier, Teng Hsiao-ping gave to the Washington POST correspondents Evans and Novak. He said at the time that he favored not only diplomatic relations with Washington but also a strong Chinese-American alliance. Teng Hsiao-ping's statement was hardly anything but deliberate. In any case, this was the opinion of THE TIMES OF INDIA. It is one thing, the paper pointed out, when Peking considers itself an official ally of NATO in Asia and another when it calls for a direct alliance with the United States. It is a qualitative change, THE TIMES OF INDIA added, and no one studying international relations can dare to ignore this fact.

In Washington itself Teng Hsiao-ping's words did not go unheeded. The term "alliance" he used was taken notice of. The way Washington reacted was in fact only to be expected if one bears in mind the doctrines that underlie the United States policy in Asia. The American defense secretary, Harold Brown, made at least two interesting admissions when he spoke in Los Angeles last February. First, he made it clear that the United States' policy in Asia will rest on a further build-up of its military presence in the region and, second, that this policy will take into account the Chinese factor.

Now what exactly did he mean? Primarily the fact that Peking did not want the Pentagon to withdraw from Asia. Chinese officials have time and again given it to understand that they approve of the Japanese-American military pact and can understand the American plans to extend the network of war bases in Asia. And another thing is also obvious: as it encourages American military preparations in Asia Peking also bases its own plans on them. It hopes to secure with Western help considerable military superiority over any country in the south of that continent. What is more, there is every indication that the Chinese leaders want to get assurances that the United States would not interfere when Peking resorts yet again to expansion regarding its neighbors in southern Asia.

Peking's calculations are not entirely groundless. Observers in Asia note that China's rapprochement with Washington has already given it considerable advantages over its southern neighbors and in West Germany the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, in a big article about the plans to increase China's military potential with arms deliveries from the NATO countries, remarked that the violations of India's northern border show how ingenious and effective Chinese impromptus can be on a battlefield. And one wonders if this ability of Peking is taken into account by those in the United States who were impressed by Teng Hsiao-ping's interview.

MOSCOW SCORES PRC'S 'TERRITORIAL AIMS' ON PARACEL ISLANDS

LD272126Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1750 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Kachanov]

[Text] China has again declared its territorial claims on the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, which are known to belong to Vietnam. That is how observers assess today's NCNA report on the opening of a ferry service between these islands and China.

Earlier, Chinese military units had occupied some of the Paracel Islands, thus underlining--as it has underlined many times before--the expansionist character of Peking's foreign policy. It should be remembered that on the pretext of the return of the so-called lost territories, China claims 10.5 million square kms of territories belonging to other countries. These include India, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Mongolia and a number of other countries.

GROMYKO, FRG ENVOY COMMENT ON COOPERATION AGREEMENT

LD272040Y Moscow TASS in English 2005 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, and Hans Georg Wieck, FRG ambassador to the USSR, exchanged notes today on the entry into force of the agreement on the development and deepening of long-term cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of economy and industry. The agreement was signed on May 6th, 1978 during the visit paid to the FRG by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Speaking after the exchange of notes, Andrey Gromyko said that the agreement was called upon to promote an all-round expansion of commercial, industrial and technical relations. It covers a period up to the beginning of the next century. Thereby, a solid material foundation is being created for the peaceful cooperation of the two countries. Its conclusion testifies to the growing trust and mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and the FRG, to the resolution of the two countries to make their mutual relations more stable and broader in scope.

Alongside with the joint declaration and other understandings reached during Leonid Brezhnev's May visit to the FRG, the minister noted, the agreement constitutes a weighty contribution to the cause of international detente, to the practical implementation of the Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The FRG ambassador to the USSR Hans Georg Wieck said that the FRG Government attached great perspective significance to the agreement. It meets the interests of both sides. Its long-term character contributes to the creation of confidence in all the spheres of bilateral cooperation and becomes, thereby, an important contribution also to the cause of further improving the political relations between the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany. The agreement is proof of the long-term policy of mutual concord pursued by both sides.

COMMENTATOR VIEWS 'MILITARY DETENTE' IN EUROPE

LD272308Y Moscow in French to Europe 1800 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Viktor Shlenov commentary: "Peace and Security for Europe"]

[Text] Today, with only a few days separating us from the new year, we can say with deep satisfaction that 1978 has been the 33d year of peace in Europe. It has been a year of action toward strengthening and extending detente on the continent. The USSR and the other socialist countries have worked to make the general political climate in Europe healthier and to improve relations with Western European countries.

In that perspective, great significance was attached to Leonid Brezhnev's visit to the FRG, and to other meetings and talks between statesmen of the East and West of our continent.

The USSR's economic and cultural ties with France, the FRG, Italy, Spain and the Scandinavian countries have developed successfully.

But reactionary, militaristic forces do not want to disarm. They are trying to (?hinder) detente and intensify the arms race. For this purpose, some people in the West are striving to compromise the USSR's good intentions and intimidate the population of Western European countries by means of the Soviet threat. But to whom is this so-called threat a threat?

The leaders of the United States and Western Europe, as well as NATO generals, ceaselessly brag of the superiority of the West's war machine in comparison with the USSR and its allies. Let us leave that on their consciences. At any rate, no one could deny that a balance has existed for a long time between the armed forces of the two blocs in Europe--between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. This balance is the very thing which makes it possible to safeguard peace on the continent and throughout the world. Those who allow themselves to make irresponsible remarks about the Soviet threat say nothing about NATO's gigantic military preprations in the last few years.

Can our country look on indifferently at the growth in NATO's military spending and the accelerated execution of a vast program of modernization of NATO's armed forces, as well as the production of parts for the neutron bomb in the United States, for which there are plans to deploy right at the borders of the socialist countries? No. In this context, the USSR is forced to strengthen its defensive potential.

At the recent conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee in Moscow, the leaders of the socialist countries repeated their proposals aimed at military detente in Europe. They declared that they were prepared to negotiate all the aspects of stopping the arms race including the limitation and reduction of the two sides' contingents (?of) military potential in Europe, which are the source of their mutual anxiety. These proposals are clear, concrete and perfectly achievable. They set out the ways and means toward halting the arms race and toward achieving military detente in Europe. All that is needed to implement them is the political will of the West.

On the eve of 1979, let us hope that it will be a year of peace, a year of the slowing down of the dangerous arms race and the strengthening of trust between East and West. There can be no just path to universal peace and security without trust and mutual understanding.

USSR SENDS CONDOLENCES TO ALGERIA ON BOUMEDIENE'S DEATH

LD281004Y Moscow TASS in English 0645 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--Follows the full text of a message of condolences from Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin:

To the acting president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic Rabih Bitat

To the Revolutionary Council, the National People's Assembly

To the government

To the Front of National Liberation Party of the APDR.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, of the Soviet Government, the peoples of the USSR and our own, we extend to you, the Revolutionary Council, to the National People's Assembly, to the government, to the Front of National Liberation Party and to the entire Algerian people profound condolences over the timeless [as received] demise of Houari Boumediene, president of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic, chairman of the Revolutionary Council, outstanding leader of the national-liberation movement, prominent statesman and politician of the Arab world and of Africa, a great friend of the Soviet Union.

An ardent patriot of his motherland, Houari Boumediene was one of the organisers and leaders of the Algerian people's armed struggle against the colonial yoke, which became a vivid page on the history of the worldwide national-liberation movement.

Under his immediate leadership, translating into life the lofty ideals of the Algerian revolution, the people of the APDR consolidated its national independence, won major political and socio-economic gains, which paved the way towards rebuilding society on the principles of social justice. Unbreakably linked with his name are such program documents as the National Charter and the 1976 Constitution, which affirmed the socialist orientation in the country's development.

Great merit goes to Houari Boumediene for strengthening the international standing of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic. A convinced and consistent fighter against imperialism, for the elimination of all forms of oppression and racism, he firmly pursued a course for Algeria's active participation in the progressive forces' struggles for the freedom and independence of the peoples, for peace and relaxation of tension, against the machinations of reaction and its abettors. He did much so that the non-alignment movement, in which Algeria is playing a prominent role, should have a consistently antiimperialist, anticolonialist orientation, allowing that movement to exert a positive influence on contemporary international relations. Algeria's principled policy in regard to the Middle East conflict, aimed at rallying the national-patriotic forces of the Arab world against aggression, for firmly opposing anti-Arab deals, at attaining a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, has won just recognition.

Houari Boumediene enjoyed great respect in the Soviet Union. Soviet people know him well as an active advocate of developing friendly relations and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the APDR. He clearly realized the historic significance of Soviet-Arab friendship for rebuffing the encroachments on the Arab peoples' freedom and legitimate rights, for their successful advance along the road of independence and social progress.

In these bitter days for the Algerian people, the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government once again confirm the Soviet Union's invariable course towards developing fraternal friendship and cooperation with the Algerian People's Democratic Republic. The people of Algeria may rest assured that the Soviet Union will always be its reliable and loyal friend.

It is our firm conviction that close friendly relations between the USSR and the APDR fully answer the vital interests of all the forces coming out for peace, national independence and social progress.

We deeply grieve together with you. We express certainty that the noble cause for which the late President Houari Boumediene gave his life will be carried on, and that the courageous Algerian people will win new victories on its chosen path of progressive development.

L. Brezhnev, A. Kosygin.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1838 GMT on 27 December reports that "Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin have sent a message of condolences to Mrs. (Aisa) Boumediene. We extend to you and your family, the message runs, condolences over the heavy loss that befell you and the Algerian people as a whole. We share your profound grief over the death of President Houari Boumediene, an outstanding leader of the Algerian people, a great friend of the Soviet Union."]

Work of Boumediene Praised

LD271827Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Aleksey Zlatorunskiy commentary]

[Text] A dispatch from Algeria carried the tragic news of the death of Houari Boumediene as a result of a long illness. The name of President Boumediene will go down in the history of Algeria as a symbol of the firm struggle to consolidate his country's political and economic independence, make progressive social and economic changes and pursue an anti-imperialist foreign policy.

In the critical years of the national liberation struggle waged by the Algerian people, late President Houari Boumediene was an active fighter against imperialism. While chief of staff, he did much for the triumph of the just cause of the national liberation struggle of Algeria. Both the drafting and promulgation of two fundamental documents--the National Charter and the Constitution--are linked with his name. These documents have legally charted the socialist road chosen by the Algerian people, insuring Algeria a high rate of development practically unprecedented in any young state in the world. The socialist road opened wide possibilities for establishing an advanced modern industry and gave land to fallahin, thus rescuing them from the exploitation they had to endure for many centuries. The socialist road has become base for the realization of deep social changes. The Algerian people have been assured of the right to free medical service, education, pension and guaranteed wages, as well as the right to extensive participation in the country's economic, social and political life.

In one of their cables to President Houari Boumediene, Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said that the Algerian revolution afforded broad possibilities to the Algerian people for rebuilding the community on the basis of social justice and in accordance with the road of socialist development they have chosen.

The name of President Houari Boumediene is closely associated with the foreign policy of the Algerian Republic. Under this anti-imperialist policy, Algeria has earned high prestige among all progressive forces struggling for a just and firm peace, for deepening detente and against the intrigues of imperialism in Africa and the Middle East.

The important contribution Algeria has always made toward the cohesion of the ranks of the Arab progressive forces, which are confronting the anti-Arab deals and the capitulatory line in solving the Middle East question, has always enjoyed the appreciation of all those interested in a comprehensive, just and firm settlement in the Middle East.

The attitude of the Algerian delegation, led by President Houari Boumediene, at the Steadfastness and Confrontation States meeting in Damascus and at the Baghdad summit were a clear conformation of this Algerian policy.

President Houari Boumediene also did much to give the nonalined movement an anti-imperialist character. His speeches from the rostrums of the nonalined conferences tangibly helped to bring about this.

Everyone knows well the consistent struggle of President Houari Boumediene to establish a new international economic order based on equality and justice. The late president was one of the active supporters of strengthening friendship and overall cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist states. He clearly saw and often noted in his speeches that this friendship and cooperation not only agreed with the basic interests of Algeria but also of all Arab countries. President Houari Boumediene saw a certain guarantee in Soviet-Arab friendship for consolidating the independence and progress of the Arabs.

The late president paid more than one official, friendly visit to the Soviet Union. In his cable from the aircraft while leaving Moscow last time, Boumediene once again expressed confidence that the existing good relations between the USSR and Algeria, which conform with the basic interests of the peoples of both countries, served the noble aim of building and strengthening the international community on a just basis and its general prosperity, and of consolidating the freedom of peoples.

The Soviet citizens share in the grief of the Algerian people at the death of President Houari Boumediene, and fully appreciate his services to all progressive mankind.

[Moscow TASS in English at 0547 GMT on 28 December reports that "the Revolutionary Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria held here a meeting which adopted an address to the nation. In this address the council stressed the outstanding role played by the late President H. Boumediene in the Algerian revolution and expressed confidence that Algeria's patriotic forces will rally still closer for further advance along the road of revolutionary reforms. It is also stressed that under no circumstances will the Algerian people give up the goals set."]

'NEW POWERFUL WAVE' OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN IRAN

LD271926Y Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

["Iran: Growing Resistance to the Regime"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, December 27, TASS--A new powerful wave of antigovernment manifestations hit the major towns of Iran today.

The troops exerted futile efforts in the area of Tehran University to stop a mourning procession of scores of thousands of people. They came to protest against the killing of a technology institute professor, who was shot dead by the troops yesterday when he shouted antigovernment slogans from a balcony of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to the demonstrators marching in the street below. According to the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, eight persons were killed today during fierce clashes around the university, including two officers who commanded the massacre of the demonstrators. Tanks have again appeared in the streets of the Iranian capital. This, however, did not stop the opponents of the existing regime. Crowds of indignant Iranis began to gather in key areas of the city at daybreak. The demonstrators set fire to military automobiles, put up barricades at crossroads.

The troops and police continue to clash with demonstrators for the fifth day now. The latter are endeavouring to break through to the American Embassy. The walls of buildings in this area are pasted with anti-American posters. The U. S. Embassy has officially warned all Americans that they should restrict their movements in the city and keep away from the demonstrators.

Reports indicate that there is unrest in Esfahan, Tabriz, Mashhad and in other towns of Iran.

The nation-wide strike was joined today by the entire personnel of the Iran Air company. Oil production has slumped to 240,000 barrels a day due to the oil workers' strike. This is only four percent of the usual petroleum output. Oil export has been stopped completely. Strict rationing of petroleum products has been introduced in the country. Purchasing missions have urgently been sent to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia due to the acute shortage of oil products. The executive director of the Iranian Oil Company, Entezam, had a meeting yesterday with a delegation of the oil workers, hoping to persuade them to stop the strike. It is reported that he agreed to meet all their economic demands. But the strikers told him they refused to work until the shah's resignation.

In view of the refusal of the customs personnel to let imported goods into the country, the supply of foodstuffs, as well as other goods and equipment from abroad has been fully discontinued. An ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent reports that an almost 35-kilometre-long column of trucks with various goods was waiting for customs inspection at the main customs checkpoint on the Turkish border.

The shah accuses the local authorities of not being sufficiently tough. Due to this, as reported by the Iranian news service PARS, the military administrator of Esfahan has been dismissed and another general was appointed to this post.

The lower chamber of the Iranian Parliament had a special session today after 268 of its members were recalled from winter holidays. The Parliament members discussed in camera the activities of Azhari's military government. Foreign news services reported earlier that such a discussion would give the shah a motive for dismissing the military government and appointing a civilian cabinet headed by the former minister for internal affairs, Sadiq. However, today's reports show that Sadiqi is still searching for politicians who would be ready to join the new government and that he had asked for several more days in which to continue this search.

Hodding Carter, spokesman of the U. S. State Department, claimed at a press conference this Tuesday that nothing had changed in the official course of the U.S. Government to give all out support to the shah's regime. The White House, it was pointed out by the State Department's spokesman, is following very attentively the developments in Iran. At the same time, Hodding Carter reaffirmed the earlier world press reports on the attempts of the U.S. Embassy to flirt with the opposition by maintaining contacts with its leaders.

As reported by the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL from Capetown, the ministry of economy of the Republic of South Africa has stated that discontinuation of Iranian oil supply could create serious problems for the Republic of South Africa, which receives from Iran ninety percent of the petroleum it consumes. In this connection he called for a regime of strict economy of oil products in the country.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1750 GMT on 27 December carries a comment on Iran in its "International Diary" program presented by Yevgeniy Kachanov. Kachanov says that "thousands of Tehran's inhabitants started converging on the city center this morning. In Tehran, demonstrations intensified considerably last Saturday, as they have done in many other cities, with the demand for the shah's abdication. The authorities promptly sent tanks and fresh army units into the streets to disperse the demonstrators. Iranians are indignant at the talks being held in Tehran by representatives of the U. S. State Department and the CIA, the aim of which is to find a way of solving the crisis situation that would be the most advantageous to Washington. Press reports say the United States wants to safeguard the throne--based on the army--but replace the unpopular monarch."]

NEW ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN INITIATIVES ARE 'MIRAGE'

LD271852Y Moscow TASS in English 1735 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

["Diverting Maneuvre"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS-TASS commentator Sergey Stoklitskiy writes: By a strange coincidence the press carried three reports almost simultaneously. News from Washington reported an Egyptian-Israeli understanding to resume shortly separate negotiations with active U. S. participation. Reported from Tel Aviv are calls by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for concessions to Egypt for the sake of achieving peace in the Middle East, while the Cairo magazine OCTOBER informs its readers of a message sent by Anwar as-Sadat to the leaders of a number of Arab states. In it the author of the "peace initiative" assures of his desire to come out for a comprehensive peaceful and just solution of the conflict in defence of the Gaza Sector and the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Golan Heights and the Palestine people's rights.

It is quite possible that when comparing the above quoted news items, some naive readers may form the impression of a "new approach" by the sides concerned to the resumption of the separate bargaining. that had all but bogged down, an approach, whereby Cairo is manifesting unprecedented "integrity and stauchness,""upholding" the interests of the whole Arab world, while Tel Aviv is displaying so-far unknown "flexibility and agreeableness".

However, such a mirage dissolves at the very first confrontation with reality. Nationwide exercises for the mobilization of reservists just held in Israel, plans for establishing new settlements on occupied Arab territories announced by the deputy defence minister in the Israeli Cabinet, Mordechai Zippori, clearly indicate that expansion, annexation, the position-of-strength [are] the invariable key factors (?of Israel's) political course.

Equally illusory are As-Sadat's (?demands). Finding himself a voluntary captive of the ignominous Camp David accords, the Egyptian president is now trying to at least somehow justify his actions in the eyes of the Arab world. Hence his attempts, if only formally, to "link" the draft of the Egyptian-Israeli separate treaty to the granting of so-called "autonomy" to the Palestinians living on Israel-occupied territories. But what kind of "linkage" is this, when the rights of the Palestinians, as envisaged by the Camp David "peace framework" are actually reduced to a fictitious autonomy and even this under the guns of the Israeli occupationists?

It is absolutely clear that in these circumstances all the talk about the sides' emerging "new approach" to the Middle East conflict is nothing more than a [words indistinct] misleading world public opinion, at diverting its attention from the unseemly fuss, as the final touches are being put to the separate deal.

DMITRIYEV ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS WITHIN MIDEAST CONTEXT

LD272334Y Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] On Wednesday morning, members of the ultrarightist Gush Emunim movement set up two more Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River. Our observer Igor Dmitriyev comments:

This could be a minor episode--but only if it is taken out of the overall Middle East context. In mid-December, a special Israeli commission worked out a 5-year program for the resettlement of about 100,000 Israelis in the occupied West Bank and on the Golan Heights belonging to Syria. The total cost of the project runs into millions of dollars.

On Tuesday, Israel announced the mobilization of reservists, who will take part in nationwide military exercises to test the army's combat ability in an emergency situation. The announcement came after a series of Israeli air and artillery attacks against southern Lebanon earlier this month. So the forthcoming exercises are quite justifiably seen by foreign observers as another step to aggravate the Middle East situation.

It seems to be wrong to attribute the hardening of Israel's policy in the Middle East to its alleged frustration over the so-called onesided position of Washington at the Middle East separate talks. Israel has never fallen out of America's favor. Speaking on ABC television on 14 December, President Carter conceded that Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands are illegal, but nevertheless he again reaffirmed Washington's firm commitment to Israel.

The further hardening of Israel's stance appears to be a logical result of the separate deal policy with its obvious encouragement for Israeli expansion at the expense of the Arab nations, including the Arab people of Palestine.

Fences that are being put up around new Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands and artillery shells exploding in southern Lebanon are the only tangible results produced by Egyptian-Israeli separate talks.

CORRESPONDENT REVIEWS LEBANON'S 'DIFFICULT' YEAR

LD272234Y Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, December 27, TASS--TASS correspondent Anatoliy Borisov reports:

The outgoing year of 1978 has been a difficult one for Lebanon. Hardly had the Lebanese been able to heal the wounds after a long civil war, when again they have been plunged into a whirlpool of bloody political events and Israeli armed provocations in the south, as a result of which more than 200,000 refugees from the south of the country were compelled to look for refuge at temporary dwellings and camps. Israeli bombings and shelling took a toll of more than 2,000 lives; about 80 towns and villages were destroyed. The [word indistinct] from the aggression is estimated at several hundred million dollars.

Despite the efforts of international organizations and the dispatch of U.N. troops to south Lebanese areas, Israel and the collaborating conservative Lebanese forces in the south refuse to comply with the U.N. resolutions and to hand over that territory under control of the legitimate central authorities. Moreover, with the direct connivance of Tel Aviv the conservatives created there a controlled zone with their army and administration. The Israeli occupationists continue to stay on a part of the Lebanese territory. In Lebanon they feel serious concern and anxiety over a possibility of a new Israeli aggression against south Lebanese areas.

In the outgoing year internal reaction and the forces which are not interested in normalization of the situation, continued their provocative actions aginst the central authorities, and resorted to direct armed clashes with the Lebanese Army and the inter-Arab peace-keeping forces in Lebanon. The conservative "Lebanese Front" openly disregarded the decisions of the conference of the Arab countries in Bayt ad-Din which are bound to stabilize the situation and find ways of settlement of the internal crisis. The right-wing Christian forces provoked all the time armed clashes in the capital in a number of provinces. As a result of actions of isolationists, the Lebanon found itself practically divided into enclaves, the economic links in the country are paralysed, the Beirut port stands idle, many enterprises and banks are closed. The work of state institutions and organizations has been largely impaired.

In this situation, the central authorities with the support of the progressive forces continue efforts aimed at restoring tranquility and security so as to create conditions for a national dialogue on the future of Lebanon, on overcoming the political crisis in the country on the basis of unity and independence of the country.

MOSCOW MEETING ON ANNIVERSARY OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

LD262243Y Moscow in Arabic to North Africa 2100 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Representatives of the Soviet public held a meeting in Moscow today on the 14th anniversary of the Palestinian resistance movement. Kholov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, attended.

The speakers at the meeting stressed that the Soviet Union has been and will always be a supporter of the Palestinian people in their struggle to realize their legitimate national rights. It was pointed out that Soviet-Palestine relations were developing and growing successfully. This is illustrated by the constant expansion of relations with the PLO and with Palestinian trade unionists, women, youth and other organizations. Relations between Soviet leaders and leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement have assumed international importance.

The speakers firmly condemned intrigues by the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary forces against the national interests of the Palestinian people. They also expressed confidence in the inevitability of the triumph of these people's just cause, and their belief that the Palestinians will build their independent democratic state. Muhammad ash-Sha'ir, head of PLO office in Moscow, praised the firm course being pursued by the CPSU and Soviet Government, a course which aims at supporting the struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples for a just and strong peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting, the Soviet Committee for Friendship and Solidarity With the Palestinian Arab People was elected. The first deputy minister of culture, Barabash, was elected chairman of this committee.

Official Praises Palestinian Movement

LD272152Y Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--"The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have always been and will remain on the side of the just and courageous struggles of the Palestine Arab people. They intend to give the Palestine resistance movement moral support and material aid", stated Aleksandr Dzasokhov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, in an interview to a TASS correspondent in connection with the 14th anniversary of the Palestine resistance movement. The Soviet public, Dzasokhov said, fully supports the principled and consistent course of the CPSU and the Soviet Government aimed at ensuring the Palestine people's right to self-determination and the creation of an independent state. We stand for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis with the equal participation in such a settlement of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine Arab people, the Soviet public figure said. Aleksandr Dzasokhov noted with satisfaction the constantly strengthening friendship between the Soviet and Palestinian peoples. A committee for friendship and solidarity with the Arab people of Palestine has just been established in the Soviet Union. The developments in the Middle East, Dzasokhov said, demand high vigilance and active struggle for a just peace in that region. The imperialists, Zionists, and their reactionary accomplices are doing everything for achieving their goals, for dragging out and complicating a solution of the Middle East crisis, for causing splits and controversies among the Arab ranks, for eliminating the Palestine resistance movement, for putting an end to the progressive gains of the Arab working people, for undermining their friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other (?countries) of the socialist community. In these circumstances, Dzasokhov noted, the solidarity of all progressive forces with the Arab people of Palestine is growing and strengthening. It is indicative that at the recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty countries, the socialist states once again confirmed their principled position for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

SYRIAN PARTY DELEGATION VISITS USSR 19-26 DEC

LD272312Y Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--A delegation of party functionaries of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Syria stayed in the Soviet Union on December 19-26 in accordance with the plan of party links between the CPSU and the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party of Syria. The delegation was headed by G. Haseke D. Daud, head of a department of the regional committee of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party. The Syrian guests were received at the Department of Science and Educational Establishments of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Department of Science and Educational Establishments of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, familiarised themselves with the experience of the CPSU's work in national education and culture.

BREZHNEV GREETS SHAYKH OF BAHRAIN ON NATIONAL DAY

LD191642Y Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 19, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev has sent a message to the Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the state of Bahrain, conveying congratulations and the best wishes to the friendly Bahrain people on the occasion of the national day of the country. In his reply message the amir of the state of Bahrain expressed gratitude for the congratulations and on his part wished the Soviet Union a further progress.

GREECE'S ENTRY INTO EEC 'HEDGED BY CONDITIONS'

LD211950Y Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, December 21, TASS--Terms of Greece's accession to the EEC have been agreed upon after long arguments during a new round of talks here between the foreign ministers of the Common Market and Greek Foreign Minister Yeoryios Rallis. It follows from statements made by representatives of the Nine that the official agreement on Greece's entry in the Common Market will be evidently signed next spring. However, Greece will become a member of this grouping only in 1981. The admission of Greece to the Common Market is hedged by a number of conditions and reservations imposed on Athens by the Nine. Greece has failed to secure a shortening of the transitional period after which it will become a full member of the community. Actually, the transitional period will stretch over seven years. During this period, Greek workers will have no right to take permanent jobs in other EEC countries while high import duties are to be levied as before on a number of key items of Greek agricultural exports, such as tomato paste and apricots going to other Common Market countries. In the opinion of observers, the agreement reached in Brussels will cause displeasure not only in Greece but also in Portugal and Spain, which are also holding talks on accession to the Common Market. These countries fear that the Nine will make still tougher demands during talks with them. Greece's accession to the EEC is sharply criticized by the opposition parties and broad sections of the working people in the country. The Greek democratic press says that Greece's subordination to big West European monopolies is at variance with the vital interests of its people.

CORRESPONDENT ON 'FACIST' VIOLENCE IN TURKEY

LD261938Y Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Text] There is growing indignation in Turkey over a new act of violence by rightwing terrorists in the city of Maras, where over the weekend fascist rowdies attacked democratic organizations. More than 100 people died and over 1,000 were injured as a result of armed clashes. Here are details from our correspondent in Ankara:

There are many women and children among the dead and wounded. Fascist rowdies broke into houses and killed whole families, not sparing babies and pregnant women. More than 500 houses, shops, office buildings and premises occupied by public organizations have been destroyed in the city. Armed people, who were acting like Hitler's storm troopers, wore masks resembling Ku Klux Klan hoods. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and prominent political figures have described the events in Maras as actions directed against the integrity of the state. Making use of religious and anticommunist slogans for their designs, the rightwing extremists have managed to create an atmosphere of a civil war. Journalists assumed that the events in Maras and the preceding events in Malatya and other eastern provinces of Turkey were masterminded by secret services of the United States and other Western countries, and that the local fascist extremists were just tools in their hands. Using extra troops and police that were introduced into the city, the government has managed to localize the events and to take the situation under its control, but fears are expressed by politicians and journalists in Ankara that such events may spread to other eastern and southeastern areas of Turkey.

On Monday, at an emergency meeting, the Cabinet discussed the situation in Maras and took measures to put an end to such actions. As it is known, in 11 months of 1978 the number of people killed in acts of terrorism in Turkey exceeded 1,000, while another 7,000 people were injured.

DMITRIYEV ON RESULTS OF 'ILLEGAL' ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA

LD222134Y Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The constituent assembly in Namibia controlled by the Pretoria-backed Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA], on Friday formally agreed to a new round of elections under international supervision. Our observer Igor Dmitriyev has this comment:

The main obstacle to free and fair elections in Namibia is military and economic control of this territory by South Africa.

By staging elections earlier this month and excluding from them the SWAPO organization, internationally recognized as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people, South Africa intended to preserve its control there.

Now with the DTA in power, Pretoria can rely on it to achieve its goal. However, the world community does not recognize the results of the illegal election. The United Nations views them as null and void. Now why did the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance agree to a United Nations-supervised election?

Obviously, both the DTA and Pretoria hope that as long as some 50,000 South African troops are stationed in Namibia, the people will continue to vote for the DTA. Fifty thousand troops, security forces and police are believed by South Africa to be a good enough motivation to make the Namibians vote the way it wants. This precisely is why Pretoria refuses to cut its troop level in Namibia. The DTA obediently follows the line by demanding that South Africa continue its military presence there. The DTA wants the South African Army to remain in Namibia till hostilities end there. By hostilities the alliance means the national liberation struggle led by the SWAPO. Moreover, the DTA demands that the United Nations stop its support for the SWAPO. In other words, the preconditions advanced by the Pretoria-backed alliance in Namibia seek to neutralize the SWAPO, isolate it from the world community and the Namibian people, and perpetuate South Africa's military presence.

In these conditions any elections in Namibia, no matter who supervises them, might lead to a landslide victory of the DTA, which rubber stamps any decisions made in South Africa.

KULIK CRITICIZES RHODESIAN 'PROVOCATION' AGAINST ZAMBIA

LD231658Y Moscow TASS in English 1042 GMT 23 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 23, TASS--TASS political news analyst Sergey Kulik writes:

The illegal Smith regime has committed unprecedented for its impudence provocation against sovereign Zambia--strafing the Zambian Army units in the central province of the republic and then dropping paratroopers on Zambian territory to kidnap 31 Zambian soldiers. Reporting on this criminal act the UPI correspondent in Salisbury cites a long list of similar provocations committed by racists in the course of this year.

The world public cannot fail to see the fact that the stepped up aggressiveness of Salisbury coincides in time with activized Western attempts to provide a neocolonialist settlement to the whole set of South African problems and to impose on the African majority in Rhodesia and Namibia neocolonialist regimes to thus fence off the racist preserve, the Republic of South Africa, from independent Africa.

It is no coincidence that the aggression committed by the Rhodesians against Zambia has coincided in time with the attempts of South African authorities to impose on Nambia a government created on the basis of "elections" which were declared invalid by the United Nations.

The available facts show that the barbarous acts committed by Rhodesians against Zambia as well as the recent provocations of the Republic of South Africa against Angola aim at demoralizing and thus weakening the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and SWAPO bringing more pressure to bear on the frontline states to force them into giving up support for the patriots of Namibia and Zimbabwe. In carrying out the provocations the racist military actually emerge as a punitive force in the service of international capital.

It is exactly the concern of the imperialist states for implementing the neocolonialist plans in South Africa that makes them act as patrons of the racists. The policy of connivance and abetting the racists, pursued by the United States of America, Britain and other NATO countries gives a free hand to the Salisbury and Pretoria regimes to challenge the will of the United Nations and of the peace loving public.

The lately expanding scale of arms supplies to the racists by the NATO powers have to be regarded as a direct challenge to the public opinion. It is these arms that are being utilized by Rhodesia and the Republic of South Africa to carry out armed provocations against Zambia and Mozambique, for pursuing the policy of genocide against the African population of Zimbabwe and Namibia. It is for this reason that these countries, together with the Smith regime, bear the responsibility for the crimes which have been and are committed by the racists.

The Soviet Union shares the concern of Zambia, Mozambique, Angola and other frontline states over the situation emerging in southern Africa since the actions of the racists and their patrons create a real danger to peace and security in the area.

USSR, INDIA SIGN TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1979

LD2411152Y Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 24 Dec 78 LD

["On the Basis of Mutual Benefit"--TASS headline]

[Text] Delhi, December 12, TASS--TASS correspondent Igor Kolganov reports:

A Soviet-Indian protocol on trade for 1979 has been signed here. The protocol envisages trade of 12,000 million rupees, an almost 20 per cent rise over the current year.

In accordance with the protocol, the Soviet Union will supply India with cement, wood pulp, newsprint, fertilisers. Deliveries of oil products and non-ferrous metals to India will largely increase. On the list of Soviet exports to India in 1979 will also be fuel, equipment for construction projects going up in India--with the Soviet Union's assistance.

The list of commodities India supplies the Soviet Union with will largely grow. Apart from tea, coffee, cashew, tobacco, hand-made carpets, cotton products and foot wear, India exports will include engineering equipment, automatic loaders, steel rope, aluminium cable, electronic equipment, tools, chemicals.

The signing of the Soviet-Indian trade protocol for 1979 coincided in time with the 25th anniversary of the signing of the first long-term trade agreement between the Soviet Union and India, which has become a major landmark in the development of Soviet-Indian relations.

PRAVDA NOTES INDIAN PARLIAMENT DECISION ON GHANDI ARREST

LD221703Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Delhi, 19 December, TASS--By a majority of votes by the ruling Janata Party, the lower house of the Indian Parliament today decided to expel Indira Gandhi from the house and imprison her until the end of the current session of parliament--that is, until the end of this week. She is accused of disrespect for Parliament during her tenure as prime minister and leader of her party's parliamentary faction in 1975, when Parliament attempted to investigate the activity of her son Sanjay Gandhi. Today, the speaker of the lower house of Parliament signed the order for the arrest of I. Gandhi. According to PTI, 279 deputies voted for this lower house decision, 138 voted against and 37 abstained.

I. Gandhi was arrested the same day and imprisoned in Delhi's Tihar Jail.

AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS INTERFERENCE IN IRAN

LD251640Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1130 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Hafizollah Amin, foreign minister of Afghanistan, has condemned any foreign interference in Iran, adding that the present events in Iran are an internal matter exclusively for the Iranian people. Amin was speaking at a reception in honor of a Vietnamese delegation led by Nguyen Duy Trinh, vice premier and foreign minister of Vietnam. He said that both countries support the policy of international detente and are loyal to the policy of nonparticipation in aggressive military blocs.

INDOCHINA

CAMBODIAN NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT

LD271850Y Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, December 27, TASS--The Kampuchean United Front for National Salvation, which is the sole genuine representative of the Kampuchean people and mouthpiece of its aspirations, comes out for a foreign policy of independence, peace, friendship and non-alignment, says the foreign policy statement by the Kampuchean United Front for National Salvation issued by the KAMPUCHEAN NEWS AGENCY.

As a result of the actions of the treacherous Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique pursuing a policy of mass extermination of the population, as was the case during the times of medieval barbarity and German fascism, the Kampuchean people is in an extremely hard position, the document points out. It has no greater desire than living in peace, independence and and freedom, in friendship with all countries.

It is necessary to put an end immediately to provocations, armed conflicts, border wars and restore the old traditions of solidarity and friendship between the Kampuchean and Vietnamese people, the goodneighbour relations with Laos, Thailand and other countries of Southeast Asia. The document expresses readiness to strengthen solidarity and develop relations of friendship and cooperation with the socialist countries, with the states, which gained national independence, with national liberation and democratic movements.

The Kampuchean United Front for National Salvation pointed out its determination to struggle against all sorts of manoeuvres and actions by the Chinese authorities directed at interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs and support for the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. He called upon the peoples and governments, national and international organizations fighting for peace and justice to display their support for the National Salvation Front, to stay the bloody hand of the Phnom Penh clique, to contribute to strengthening peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The collapse of the barbarous militaristic Phnom Penh regime is inevitable, the document stresses. Kampuchea's future is in the hands of its people, which rallied closely together under the glorious banner of the United Front for National Salvation.

PEKING SAID TO SUPPORT WESTERN POLICY IN KOREA

SK191017Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 16 Dec 78 SK

[Report from IZVESTIYA correspondent in Tokyo]

[Text] The attempt of imperialists, who are seeking to freeze the division of the Korean peninsula, to change the southern half of the peninsula into their base and to utilize the Pak Chong-hui regime in the struggle against the DPRK, has encountered the increasing resistance of the peace-loving forces and democratic forces of the world.

The second World Conference for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, held in Japan, proved that the solidarity of supporters of peaceful reunification of the Korean people is growing in strength. This conference was authoritative and attended by representatives of 11 international organizations and over 500 delegates from 59 countries of the world, including the delegations from socialist countries. Reporting on this conference, many foreign reporters stressed its large size and paid special attention to the fact that there was no Peking delegation attending the conference. Commenting on this noticeable fact, reporters pointed out that Peking authorities have acknowledged that the future of the Korean people is not closely related to that of peace in Far East. The Chinese leaders' disregard for the struggle for the peaceful reunification of Korea is a result of Peking's line of strengthening its alliance with imperialist, reactionary forces.

The Peking leaders know that the northern half of the Korean peninsula has become an important target of the Japan-U.S. military alliance concluded in the form of a security treaty. However, knowing well the aggressive nature of this military alliance, the Peking leaders have tried to seek a chance to express their support of the Japan-U.S. military bloc. When he visited Japan recently, Teng Hsiao-ping openly advocated the need to maintain the U.S.-Japan security pact and to strengthen the Japan Self-Defense Forces.

While Washington and Tokyo are supporting the strengthening of the economic and military power of South Korea, the Chinese leaders are accelerating political contact with Japan. The China-Japan peace and friendship treaty is an example of this. Peking's two-faced policy on the Korean question openly encourages the Seoul dictator Pak Chong-hui and the aggressive plot of the supporters of Pak Chong-hui. As indicated by many political commentators, Peking, together with the U.S. aggressive forces, must bear all the responsibility for the increasing tension in the Far East and for the provocations against the DPRK.

TALKS BETWEEN SOVIET, MONGOLIAN TU DELEGATIONS REPORTED

LD261914Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0712 GMT 26 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Moscow--The unbreakable friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet and Mongolian peoples and the international aid of the USSR create great prospects for the further strengthening of the material-technical basis of socialism in Mongolia. This is stressed in a communique on the results of the official friendly visit to Mongolia of a Soviet trade union delegation, which took place from 19 to 24 December. The Soviet delegation was led by AUCCTU Chairman Aleksey Shibayev. During talks with a Mongolian trade union delegation the sides noted the full unity of views on all questions regarding the international situation and the world trade union movement. In particular, they noted with concern the tension in the Far East and Southeast Asia caused by the great power hegemonistic policy of the PRC leadership. The sides expressed willingness to continue to actively oppose the adventuristic intrigues of Peking in the international arena. It was stressed that the actions of the Chinese leaders against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and their active support of the actions of Kampuchea in relation to Vietnam, are directed toward wrecking the process of detente and the cause of world peace and toward preventing the peoples of the region from pursuing their own independent policy.

CUBA'S ACHIEVEMENTS ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION CITED

LD251827Y Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Havana, December 25, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Voropayev reports: Preparations are underway in Cuba to celebrate a remarkable day in the country's life--the 20th anniversary of the victorious Cuban revolution. On January 1, 1959, the legendary rebel army, commanded by Fidel Castro, crushed the corrupt regime of imperialist placeman dictator Batista.

In the following years the Cuban revolution successfully fulfilled big and difficult tasks. The resistance of the counterrevolution was finally supressed and the republic's defence capacity strengthened. The attempts to stifle the young state with an economic blockade failed.

Cuba is no longer a hinterland of foreign monopolies, while its people (?enjoy) such social benefits as the right to work, to free education and medical services--everything which is beyond the ability of capitalism even in the developed countries.

Cuba has scored considerable economic successes. In the years of people's power the production of electricity almost trebled, the output of cement increased about four-fold. Similar striking achievements have been accomplished by the republic's agriculture. The production of sugar--the staple export commodity--reached almost 7.5 million tons in the previous season to become the second largest harvest in the country's history. Workers participating in the recent sugar cane harvest exert maximum efforts to score even higher successes.

Party and state development is being successfully carried out on a socialist basis. Of significant importance to this effect are the decisions of the historic First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, which took place in Havana in 1975.

The republic enjoys high international prestige. Now about a hundred states maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. Cuba attaches top-priority importance to developing relations with socialist countries and carries out an active and many-sided work within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Blas Roca Interviewed

LD251050Y Moscow TASS in English 0958 GMT 25 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Havana, December 25, TASS--Nikolay Chigir, a TASS correspondent, reports: The drawing of the broad mass of Cuba's people into the solution of major state matters and into the administration of the country is one of the main gains of the triumphant revolution, said Blas Roca, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, vice chairman of the Council of State, president of Cuba's National Assembly of people's power. He gave an interview to the TASS correspondent in connection with the national holiday--the liberation day--marked on January 1.

The triumph of the revolution on January 1, 1959, signified first of all the abolition of tyranny whose criminal policy was based on the country's subjugation to U.S. imperialism and on the suppression of all its progressive and patriotic forces by means of most ruthless repressions, tortures and killings, he went on to say. The revolution led to the establishment of a qualitatively new state power fully backed by popular masses. The new power asserted, first of all, the country's national sovereignty and ensured its real independence. The further development of the revolutionary process led to the transfer of all national wealth and capital goods to the people's power.

The fundamental law of the Cuban socialist state, Blas Roca said, guarantees the widest democracy for workers, peasants and the entire working people.

It is exactly the working people who elect their representatives to supreme bodies of state power and local bodies of people's power and have the right to recall those who do not justify the trust placed in them. And this socialist democracy is incomparably higher than any bourgeois democracy under which there always is the cruellest dictatorship of the exploiter minority behind the formal "freedom."

In the process of our state development, in the development of our democratic institutions, we leaned on the widest experience of the countries of the socialist community, the Soviet Union above all, the Cuban leader emphasized.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution as our greatest holiday, the Cuban people confidently look into the future, Blas Roca said. They have every ground for that. At present the revolutionary unity of our people is monolithic as never before, and their solidarity in support of the Communist Party and its Central Committee headed by Fidel Castro is strong and unshakable. The prestige of the Cuban socialist state in the international arena is high as never before. The ties of brotherhood that link Cuba with the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community are strong as never before. All this is the best guarantee that still greater strides will be made in all spheres of socialist construction in Cuba in the coming years.

ROMANOV MEETS WITH CUBAN DELEGATION IN LENINGRAD

LD280701Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 28 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Beginning today in Leningrad are the days of Santiago de Cuba, the town of the Cuban revolution which is the adopted brother of Leningrad. A delegation of the party organization of the province and the association of Cuban-Soviet friendship has arrived here. A meeting was held between the guests and Comrade Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom. In the Saltykov-Shchedrin public library an exhibition entitled Cuba today, at which the works of Comrade Brezhnev and Fidel Castro in Russian and Spanish are being displayed, has opened.

BREZHNEV PRESENTS AWARDS AT KREMLIN CEREMONY

LD271302Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented awards of the homeland to a group of comrades in the Kremlin today. Presenting the awards, Comrade Brezhnev said: [read by announcer]

Dear comrades, we are meeting together on the eve of a new year. This naturally adds to our meeting, making it doubly festive. And I would like to cordially congratulate all of you, people of different ages and different callings, both on the coming year and on the awards of the homeland.

A considerable part in the great Soviet grain harvest may be attributed to the many years of effort made by Nikolay Vasilyevich Tsissin, a scientist of world reknown. Today he is being presented the Order of Lenin and second Hammer and Sickle Gold Medal.

The Order of Lenin also goes to Eduard Amvrosyevich Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. An energetic and fearless man, in his post of leader of the Georgian party organization he has proven himself worthy of authority both in the republic and in the country as a whole.

The Order of Lenin is also being awarded to Nikolay Timofeyevich Glushkov. He has worked long and fruitfully in the field of nonferrous metallurgy and for a number of years now has been in charge of a very important organ of the economy, the State Committee for Prices.

It gives me great satisfaction to present the Order of the October Revolution to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev today. He has proven himself worthy of the award through his work in one of the country's important granaries--Stavropolskiy Kray. I hope that in his new post of responsibility as secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Sergeyevich will also display his characteristic initiative and selflessness in work.

For his services to the development of health protection and medical science, Aram Yakovlevich Abramyan has been awarded the Order of the October Revolution. He has been treating people for over 50 years. It would be difficult to even count the number of patients who owe their good health to him.

Among today's award winners is Anatoliy Karpov. He needs no introduction. He gave himself and our country a fitting introduction in the tense competition for the chess crown. His sporting prowess is being celebrated in the Order of the Labor Red Banner.

There remains another pleasant duty for me to perform: to present badges of excellence to Army Generals Comrades Vadim Aleksandrovich Matrosov and Semen Kuzmich Tsvigun. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on receiving these lofty military titles.

I wish you all, dear comrades, good health, happiness, and new successes in your life and work.

The award winners expressed their sincere gratitude to the Communist Party, its Leninist Central Committee, the Soviet state and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally for the high appraisal of their work.

They gave their assurance that they will continue to devote all their energy, knowledge and experience toward promoting the successful implementation of the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, strengthening the power of the socialist homeland and building a communist society in our country.

Present at the ceremony were: Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Georgadze, secretary of USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other officials.

DEMICHEV PRESENTS OCTOBER ORDER TO MOSCOW THEATER

LD272242Y Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--An Order of the October Revolution on the banner of the Moscow Art Academic Theatre is in recognition of its services in the construction of socialism and communism, in education of the Soviet man, said alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Culture of the USSR Petr Demichev. He spoke at a celebration meeting, devoted to the presentation of the Order of the October Revolution to the theatre workers. The award was conferred upon the theatre, which marks its 80th anniversary, for its services in the development of Soviet theatre art. From the very beginning, Petr Demichev said, the theatre has been forming as consistently democratic, appealing to the people, to the masses, asserting what is new, progressive, developing the principles of realistic art, striving to see deeper into very complex social phenomena and processes. Petr Demichev has read out a decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and to the applause of those present pinned the Order of the October Revolution to the theatre's banner. Chief producer of the theatre, People's Artiste of the USSR Oleg Yefremov has expressed the feeling of gratitude to the party and the state for the high appreciation of the theatre workers' labor. He assured that the theatre workers would devote all their efforts, talent and inspiration to serving the party, the people, the cause of construction of communism.

SHCHERBITSKIY DELIVERS REPORT AT KIEV PARTY CONFERENCE

AU270940Y Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Dec 78 AU

[Text] A republic-level scientific-practical conference was held in Kiev today to discuss the creative development of the Leninist principles of cadres policy in Comrade Brezhnev's works "Malaya Zemlya," "Rebirth" and "Virgin Lands."

An opening speech was delivered by Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian CP Central Committee first secretary. Those participating in the conference were first secretaries and secretaries of obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms; leaders and party committee secretaries of ministries, departments, enterprises, projects, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, scientific institutions and cultural establishments; party veterans, media workers and servicemen. Comrade Shcherbitskiy delivered a report at the conference. Other reports were delivered at the conference by Botvin, Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo member and Kievskiy Gorkom first secretary; Yurchuk, director of the Institute of the Party History under the Ukrainian CP Central Committee--a branch of the Marxism-Leninism Institute under the CPSU Central Committee-- and corresponding member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Gerasimenko, Party Committee secretary at the Zaporozhstal metallurgical plant; Morgun, Politavskiy Obkom first secretary; Korniyenko, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary; Vice Admiral Medvedev, Military Council member and Political Administration chief in the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet; and Zagrebelnyy, board secretary of the Ukrainian Writers Union.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy delivered a concluding speech. The conference participants adopted recommendations for further improvements in work among cadres in light of the theses and conclusions contained in Comrade Brezhnev's works "Malaya Zemlya," "Rebirth" and "Virgin Lands." A letter was addressed with great enthusiasm to the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman. Participating in the conference proceedings were Comrades Borisenko, Vatchenko, Vashchenko, Lyashko, Petr Leontiyevich Pogrebnyak, Sologub, Fedrochuk, Kachura, Malanchuk and Yakov Petrovich Pogrebnyak.

COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES SUPREME SOVIET ELECTION CAMPAIGN

LD271904Y Moscow TASS in English 1639 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--TASS commentator Vladimir Leonidov writes: A new highly important stage has begun in the campaign of elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet. The nomination of candidates has been started in this country having a population of 260 million. On March 4, after a careful and detailed discussion of these candidatures, Soviet people will go to the polls to cast votes for the best among the best. And today, the Soviet citizens have named Leonid Brezhnev, Aleksey Kosygin and other leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state as their first candidates. The first election meetings were held at industrial enterprises, institutions and collective farms of all the fifteen union republics. The workers, peasants and intellectuals nominate to run for the highest body of state authority, those who distinguished themselves in work, displayed special abilities and zeal in public and state activities. The USSR is the state of genuine power by the people. As practice has shown, more than a half of the deputies are working people creating material values for the Soviet society. The composition of the Soviet parliament is renewed by a half at each elections.

Noted builder Nikolay Zlobin has been nominated in Moscow today to run for the parliament. He is known due to the accelerated methods of construction of apartment houses developed by him and his colleagues. More than 100 thousand flats are built in the capital annually. Ukrainian miners nominated Hero of Socialist Labour Grigoriy Motsak. The team lead by him has put out 1.5-2 thousand tons of coal a day for more than ten years now. Grigoriy Motsak has already twice been elected deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Among the candidates is also the Uzbek weaver, laureate of the Leninist Komsomol Prize, Dilbar Kulmatova, Leningrad machine-builder Boris Zhuravlev and Kazakh cattle breeder Zharas Ospanbekov. Among the candidates to the parliament are noted public and political figures, scientists, workers in culture and military leaders. "The mass of the people must have the right to choose for itself responsible leaders." This Leninist proposition is fully revealed both in the nomination of candidates and the election campaign on the whole. Work collectives, party, trade union and other public organisations, military units have the right to name anyone, who gained high prestige and unlimited confidence. Any participant in an election meeting has the right to support or reject a candidature. Thus, the democratism of the Soviet election system, the civic activity of the working people and their political maturity are particularly vividly manifested in the course of discussion of candidates. At the preceding parliamentary elections in this country, the nomination of candidates was started two or three weeks after the announcement of the day of holding the elections. At present, according to the law adopted in July this year, this stage started even earlier--on the tenth day. This will make it possible to widen the participation of the working people in the election campaign, to hold more meetings with candidates.

The election campaign is continuing.

FOREIGN OBSERVERS PRAISE RESULTS OF VENUS SPACE MISSION

LD272336Y Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 27, TASS--The foreign press and specialists say that the results of the flights made by the Soviet automatic interplanetary stations Venera-11 and Venera-12 push back considerably the frontiers of man's knowledge of the nature of this planet and represent an important step forward in the study of the solar system.

Professor Bernard Lovell, the prominent British scientist, director of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, described the soft landing of the Venera-12 on Venus as an important achievement in space research.

Considering enormously complicated conditions, specifically high temperature and tremendous pressure on the Venusian surface, he said, the soft landing was an extremely difficult task which was carried out brilliantly.

The new data transmitted back to earth by Soviet automatic stations, French newspapers say, add greatly to man's knowledge of Venus. The soft landing of the descent craft of the interplanetary stations on the planet's surface is convincing proof of the achievements of Soviet space technology, says the newspaper LE FIGARO.

D. Maitsle, who heads the press service of the national space research centre of France, said that these experiments are an indisputable success for Soviet science and technology.

The French scientists, he said, welcomed with satisfaction news of the new Soviet achievement in the peaceful exploration of outer space. The Soviet space experiment broadens the horizons of the man's knowledge of Venus. French scientists and specialists, D. Maitsle said, have already begun processing the data obtained with the help of French apparatus installed aboard the Soviet interplanetary station Venera-12. Assessment of the first results showed once more the fruitfulness of Franco-Soviet cooperation.

BRIEFS

RESEARCH ICEBREAKER LAUNCHED--Leningrad, December 27, TASS--The world's first research ice-breaker Otto Schmidt was launched in Leningrad today. The ice-breaker is small in size (its water displacement is 3,400 tons, the engines of 5,400 indicated p.h.s.). It is designed for navigation in conditions which were beyond the reach of research vessels before. On board there will be 14 scientific laboratories, a computing centre, communication satellite equipment. In its bottom there are special man-holes to chute hydrological equipment and aqualung swimmers, and for television sub-ice observations. But scientists believe that the main task of the ice-breaker is its active navigation, which can reach 11,000 nautical miles, with autonomous navigation of 50 days. The ice-breaker is planned to sail for its maiden voyage in summer next year. [Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 27 Dec 78 LD]